

Analysis of Town of Natick Water and Sewer Billing FY98 – FY02

Voted and approved by the Natick Finance Committee by a vote of 11-0-1 on September 6, 2005

Given the spotlight that has been placed on water and sewer billing, the committee has investigated the average amount billed to Natick water and sewer ratepayers from FY98-FY02 – the time period that coincides with our investigation of the issues raised by Mr. Phillips.

Water and sewer bills, net of abatements, grew from \$9.5 million in 1998 to \$10.1 million in 2002 – a growth rate of 1.5% per year.

The number of water and sewer accounts has also grown during this time period. There were 9,400 water and sewer accounts in August of 1998 (excluding Town of Natick accounts). By August of 2002, this number had grown to 10,076. Therefore, the average water and sewer bill in Natick actually decreased from \$1,008.72 to \$999.64 – an average decrease of 0.2% per year during this time period.

During this time period, a number of factors contributed to the decrease in average water and sewer bills including watering bans and other conservation efforts. However, even ignoring the extreme cases in the analysis (1998 and 1999), the average water and sewer bill remained relatively flat, growing from \$967.45 to \$999.64.

See Table 1 on the next page for the complete analysis.

Table 1 - Analysis of Water and Sewer Billing for Town of Natick FY98-FY02

Water and Sewer Bills		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Yearly Growth 1998-2002
A1	Water Bills	3,291,178	2,721,398	3,057,938	3,142,430	3,432,473	
	Abatements/Adjustments	(27,416)	(282,034)	(102,493)	(7,576)	(9,433)	
	Net Water Bills	3,263,762	2,439,365	2,955,445	3,134,854	3,423,040	
B1	Sewer Bills	6,277,385	5,617,201	6,604,882	6,423,002	6,668,055	
	Abatements/Adjustments	(59,210)	(85,875)	(177,976)	(31,430)	(18,753)	
	Net Sewer Bills	6,218,175	5,531,326	6,426,906	6,391,572	6,649,302	
C1 = A1 + B1 Total Water and Sewer Bills (Net of Abatements)		9,481,937	7,970,690	9,382,351	9,526,426	10,072,342	1.5%

Average Bill		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Yearly Growth 1998-2002
D1 = C1	Total Water and Sewer Bills (Net of Abatements)	9,481,937	7,970,690	9,382,351	9,526,426	10,072,342	
D2	Total Water and Sewer Accounts (Aug of each year)	9,400	9,555	9,698	9,905	10,076	
D3 = D1 / D2 Average Water and Sewer Bill		1,009	834	967	962	1,000	-0.2%

Source: Water and Sewer Account Ledger Sheets FY98-FY02, Water and Sewer Account table/graph 8/19/05